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D.C. LAW 4-80

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION ACT OF 1981

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARCH 16, 1982

To amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act of 1925 to limit the privilege of reciprocity to one hundred eighty (180) days; to require, after one hundred eighty (180) days, the owners or operators of motor vehicles still operating in the District of Columbia to obtain District of Columbia registration, licenses, and identification tags; to impose a fee for the issuance of a reciprocity sticker; to require owners of commercial vehicles who operate or house a commercial vehicle in the District of Columbia to obtain District of Columbia registration; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

That this act may be cited as the "Motor Vehicle Registration Act of 1981".

Sec. 2. Section 8 of the District of Columbia Traffic Act of 1925, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1123; D.C. Code, sec. 40-303) is amended as follows:

(a) By redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (h); and

(b) By amending subsection (a) and adding new subsections (b) through (g) to read as follows:

"(a) The owner or operator of any motor vehicle who is not a legal resident of the District of Columbia, and who has complied with the laws of any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or of a foreign country or political subdivision thereof, shall, subject to the provisions of this section, be exempt for a continuous 30 day period immediately following the entrance of such owner or operator into the District of Columbia from compliance with section 2 of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 680; D.C. Code, sec. 40-102) and section 7 of this Act (D.C. Code, sec. 40-301).

"(b) Upon expiration of the 30 day exemption period, the owner or operator of any motor vehicle shall be required either:

"(1) To comply with the provisions of section 2 of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 680; D.C. Code, sec. 40-102), section 7 of this Act (D.C. Code, sec. 40-301) and all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations requiring the registration of

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motor vehicles, the display of identification tags, and the licensing of owners or operators of motor vehicles in the District of Columbia; or

"(2) To purchase, from the Mayor or his designated agent, a reciprocity sticker which shall be valid 180 days from the date of its issuance if the owner or operator has complied with the motor vehicle registration and licensing laws of the State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or of a foreign country or political subdivision thereof, of which the owner or operator is a legal resident and the owner or operator is not a legal resident of the District of Columbia. Upon expiration of the reciprocity sticker, the owner or operator who continues to reside in the District of Columbia shall be required to comply with section 2 of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 680; D.C. Code, sec. 40-102), section 7 of this Act (D.C. Code, sec. 40-301) and all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations requiring the registration of motor vehicles, the display of identification tags, and the licensing of owners or operators of motor vehicles in the District of Columbia.

"(c) The following persons shall, if they have complied with the motor vehicle registration and licensing laws of the State, Territory, or possession of the United States of which they are a legal resident, be exempt during their respective term of office or employment from compliance with section 2 of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 680; D.C. Code, sec. 40-102), section 7 of this Act (D.C. Code, sec. 40-301) and all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations requiring the registration of motor vehicles, the display of identification tags, and the licensing of owners or operators of motor vehicles in the District of Columbia:

"(1) Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the United States Congress;

"(2) Personal employees of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the United States Congress who are legal residents of the State, Territory, or possession from which said Senators, Representatives, and Delegates have been elected or appointed. Personal employees include only those individuals who work directly and specifically for a Senator, Representative, or Delegate of the United States Congress and does not include those staff members considered committee or patronage staff;

"(3) The President and Vice-President of the United States; and

"(4) Officers of the executive branch of the United States government who are not domiciled within the District of Columbia, whose appointment to the office held by them was by the President of the United States, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and whose tenure of office is at the pleasure of the President.

"(d) Those persons listed under subsection (c) shall be required to obtain and display a valid reciprocity sticker. The Mayor shall issue, upon application and without a fee, a reciprocity sticker for those persons listed under subsection (c), valid for one year, and renewable for the respective term of office or employment.

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"(e) Any owner of a commercial vehicle must comply with section 2 of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 680; D.C. Code, sec. 40-102), section 7 of this Act (D.C. Code, sec. 40-301) and all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations requiring the registration of motor vehicles, the display of identification tags, and the licensing of owners or operators of motor vehicles in the District of Columbia if:

"(1) the owner or operator maintains a place of business or terminal in the District of Columbia and the vehicles are principally housed in the District of Columbia; or

"(2) the vehicle, irrespective of where it is housed, is regularly operated in the conduct of business in the District of Columbia.

"(f) The Mayor or his designated agent is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements or arrangements with the duly authorized representatives of a State, Territory, or possession of the United States or a foreign country or political subdivision thereof, to vary the conditions under which the validity of motor vehicle registration and identification tags of any category of vehicles such as dealer tags, handicapped tags, and rental vehicle tags of such State, Territory, or possession of the United States or foreign country or political subdivision thereof, shall be recognized in the District of Columbia.

"(g) The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement and enforce this section. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of how many times during the 30 day exemption period an agent or employee of the Mayor of the District of Columbia must observe a motor vehicle for purposes of the enforcement of this section and a method of enforcing the provisions of this section applicable to commercial vehicles."

Sec. 3. Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection 411.2 is amended to read as follows:

"This section shall not apply to individuals who maintain or operate non-District of Columbia registered vehicles for not more than thirty (30) days in the District of Columbia in a one (1) year period."

(b) Subsection 411.3 is amended to read as follows:

"Upon application under oath, the Director shall issue reciprocity sticker for a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) to the owner or operator of a motor vehicle who intends to operate the motor vehicle in the District of Columbia for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days, and who meets the following requirements.

"(a) The applicant has complied with the motor vehicle registration and licensing laws of any state, territory, or possession of the United States; or the laws of any country or political subdivision of a country; and

"(b) The applicant will be in compliance with the applicable laws during the one hundred eighty (180) day reciprocity period."

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(c) Subsection 411.4 is amended to read as follows:
 "The reciprocity sticker shall be valid for only one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of issuance, and no new reciprocity sticker shall be issued to the same owner or operator within one (1) year from the date on which the previous reciprocity sticker has expired."

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect after a thirty (30)-day period of Congressional review following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council of the District of Columbia to override the veto) as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code, sec. 1-233(c)(1)).

Source

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P. L. 93-198, "the Act", the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill No. 4-292 on first and second readings, November 24, 1981 and December 8, 1981, respectively. Following the signature of the Mayor on December 21, 1981, this legislation was assigned Act No. 4-134, published in the January 8, 1982 edition of the D.C. Register, (Vol. 29 page 149) and transmitted to Congress on January 11, 1982 for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section 602 (c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired, and therefore, cites this enactment as D.C. Law 4-80, effective March 16, 1982.

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